

KENNEDY WEIGHS CHOICE OF TAYLOR AS MILITARY AIDE

Plans to Appoint Personal
Adviser in Revival of Staff
Post Held by Leahy

By JAMES RESTON

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WASHINGTON, June 19 —

President Kennedy is seriously considering the appointment of Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor as White House military adviser.

This would, in effect, revive the post of personal Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief originally held under Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman by Admiral William D. Leahy.

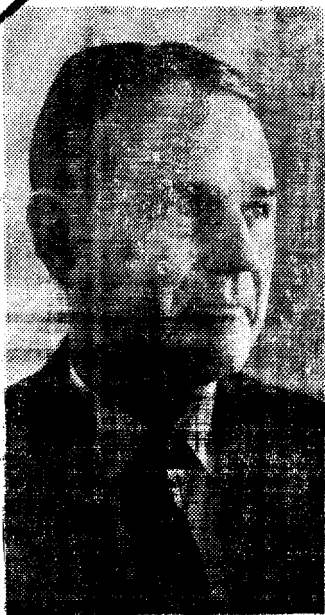
General Taylor, 59 years old, Army Chief of Staff from 1955 to 1959, is now on leave as president of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. He was called here after the recent unpleasantness in Cuba to conduct an inquiry for President Kennedy into the nation's intelligence activities.

During the Eisenhower Administration, General Taylor fought for increasing the nation's capacity to wage limited warfare. Sherman Adams, President Eisenhower's principal aide, said General Taylor's views had caused deep embarrassment and had been responsible for General Taylor's "early retirement."

He Agrees With Taylor

Then, President Kennedy has come over to General Taylor's concept of stronger mobile ground forces to deal with "limited war situations," and in this he has substantial support from the present Joint Chiefs of Staff, whose chairman is Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer.

Nevertheless, it seems likely that the appointment of General Taylor to the White House post would revive the controversy that existed here under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman when Admiral Leahy shared defense and foreign policy duties with the Department of State and Defense.



The New York Times
Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor

At that time, for example, President Truman assigned Admiral Leahy and the White House Counsel, Clark Clifford, the task of working out with the State and Defense Departments a policy to deal with the Greek-Turkish crisis of 1947. This resulted in the historic Truman Doctrine for the opposition to Communist expansion all over the world.

Since then, this doctrine, written by Mr. Clifford, has been regarded as a milestone in the "cold war," but at the time it led to charges in Congress of "interference" by the White House staff in the responsibilities of the State and Defense Departments.

Gesture of Confidence

The President is fully aware that this same charge will no doubt be made again as General Taylor's appointment increases the stature of his personal staff, but the summons to General Taylor is a kind of compromise between the creation of a single chief of staff at the Pentagon and the present system of separate chiefs, each representing a single service.

Last month, on the basis of secret testimony on the Cuban military operations, Senator Albert Gore, Democrat of Tennessee, called for the removal of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Soon

thereafter, President Kennedy made a point of calling the Joint Chiefs to the White House and posing with them for the photographers to make clear that he had no intention of asking for their resignations.

This was in keeping with his determination to avoid any suggestion that he was seeking scapegoats at the Pentagon or the Central Intelligence Agency for Cuban decisions that are his own ultimate responsibility.

Nevertheless, it is a fact that the Cuban affair did not increase the President's confidence in his military advisers, and this in turn led to the decision to bring General Taylor into the White House to help coordinate defense intelligence and foreign policy activities.

That this will increase the authority of the White House staff is fairly obvious. Already there are McGeorge Bundy, former Dean of the Faculty at Harvard, who is serving as Special Assistant to the President on National Security Affairs; Walt Whitman Rostow of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, deputy to Mr. Bundy in this same field; Theodore Sorensen, special counsel to the President, who is not only drafting most of the President's speeches but also advising on many aspects of domestic policy; Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., the historian, who has been supervising Latin-American policy in the White House, and several others.

General Taylor also advocates a crash program to develop the Nike-Zeus anti-ballistic-missile missile; the rewriting of roles and missions of the three services, and above all the abolition of what he calls "the great fallacy that massive retaliation is an all-weather, all-purpose strategy which is adequate to cope with any military challenge."

More than that, he favors

fundamental changes in the organization of the Department of Defense.

"I would," he has written "dissolve the J. C. S. as it now exists and replace it by a single defense Chief of Staff for the one-man functions and by a new advisory body called provisionally the Supreme Military Council. The service Chiefs of Staff would lose their Joint Chief hats and would return to their services to act exclusively as chiefs of staff to their respective department secretaries."

No doubt he has modified some of his ideas in the last two years, and some of them have already been accepted, but in bringing General Taylor into the White House it is clear that the President is bringing in a critic of the established order and a political and military philosopher whose views are likely to get a more sympathetic hearing in his new job than they did in the old.

General Taylor is coming in, too, at a time when the Administration is working hard on the problem of blocking the expansion of Communists power in the long arc from Korea through Southeast Asia to Iran and Turkey, and when it is anticipating considerable new pressure by the Communists on Berlin.

His appointment, in short, is the first major response to the Cuban failure. The President has avoided any violent structural changes, but he has added an influential adviser who will be close at hand to discuss any future advice from the Pentagon and the C. I. A.

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